For more information contact:
USJFCOM
Public Affairs
Phone: 757-836-6555
https://home.je.jfcom.mil

United States Joint Forces Command
Joint Experimentation Directorate
Joint Futures Lab

Who are we?

US Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM) is leading the development of the future joint force the United States of America will need to meet the military challenges of the 21st century. USJFCOM's Joint Experimentation directorate runs the Joint Futures Lab (JFL), America's military transformation laboratory.

Through joint concept development and experimentation, the JFL integrates the experimentation efforts of the Services and the other Unified Commands. The warfighting CINCs provide operational relevance, definition of critical warfighting challenges, and opportunities for experimentation events. The JFL then provides the joint framework for the Services to shape, integrate and showcase their future core competencies. By experimenting with concepts for application of new doctrine, new organizations and new technologies on a global perspective, the Joint Futures Lab supports and integrates the efforts of the Services and CINCs.

What is JFL's value-added?

We lay the foundation for defense transformation. Development of a coherent joint force starts with aggressive concept development and robust joint experimentation. USJFCOM establishes a common joint context for the Department of Defense. A common joint context has not historically existed, but it has already proven to be a powerful tool that fosters coherence, improved stewardship and early interoperability.

What's a joint experiment?

Through the work of the Joint Futures Lab, the Joint Experimentation directorate is leading national defense transformation through aggressive joint concept development and robust joint experimentation. The two efforts go hand-in-hand. *Concept development* involves intellectual focus on new ways to ensure our national defense in the midst of changing global threats. *Joint experiments* provide the analytical rigor we need to make objective, transformational recommendations for change in areas of doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership, personnel, and facilities. A joint experiment is a type of joint operation in which some combination of the Services, the warfighting CINCs, the government agencies, multinational forces and industry work together in a collaborative effort.

What's involved in a balanced concept development and experiment campaign?

The JFL uses the entire spectrum of experimentation venues to explore new

Fact sheet continued: Joint Futures Lab

In developing our strategy towards national defense transformation, the JFL explores new warfighting concepts through multiple experimentation objectives. The figure below shows the general hierarchical flow as a warfighting concept moves from inception to maturity. However, since concept development through experimentation is an iterative process, the varying "levels" do not always strictly follow the hierarchy. *The goal of concept development and experimentation is to objectively identify national defense transformational recommendations.* The "eureka moment" can occur at any point during the hierarchy of discovery. JFL is continuing to mature the processes that move these transformational discoveries forward to the national security decision makers quickly.

Hierarchy of Experimentation Venues

Leveraged Events

Another important category of experiments in the Joint Futures Lab's toolkit is the *leveraged event*. A leveraged event is an experiment, exercise or demonstration "owned" by some other organization. Service or CINC experiments, training exercises, or wargames frequently provide these opportunities. While the event owner's objectives are always the primary event driver, there frequently are opportunities within those events to address JFCOM's experimental objectives. We look for and use such opportunities at any level on the experimentation hierarchy. These opportunities allow us to partner and to share lessons learned. When involved in a leveraged event, Joint Experimentation provides resources to support it.

How will this benefit national security?

Joint experimentation is nurturing a new, operational, decision-making culture. Our basic premise is that *critical decisions on future military doctrine, organization or technology will be based on solid empirical results, not on*